

July 18, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working Group Report,
IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I grew up spending summers on Peaks Island in Portland, Maine which makes me particularly excited about the ongoing build out of the LightSquared 4G project. There are countless places throughout the state that face serious “Digital Divide” issues, but islands are their own unique issue. It is super expensive to lay underground cable across the Atlantic floor.

The intriguing piece about the LightSquared project is the nexus between satellite and tower technology. The combination makes so much more sense for islands than laying cable or wiring under the ocean. Peaks Island is very close to the mainland, but there are countless other island communities along the Maine Coastline that are much further away. Building out this technology means that rural island communities will finally have access to the same type of technology spurring economic growth in more urban areas.

Finally, in addition to island communities, Maine has a significant number of rural mainland communities across the state that face the same digital challenges due to their lack of broadband internet. I am sensitive to the needs of our farmers who may need precision GPS, but I don’t understand why Maine people (and anyone in rural America really) should have to decide between GPS services and 4G wireless broadband service.

I encourage the FCC to continue working toward a solution designed to ensure that GPS continues to be successful and that rural America finally has access to the 4G network that will bridge the Digital Divide. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Hayman

18 Clifton St, Apt 1
Portland, ME 04101